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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Area of the 25th Tank Div.

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 5 September 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The following military shipments were observed at the Templin railroad station between 30 July and 12 August 1955:
- 30 July. At 1630, a shipment of 18 canvas-covered tanks came from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeded toward Vogelsang. ¹
- 31 July. At 1400, a shipment including tanks, trucks and 13 boxcars with soldiers came from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeded toward Vogelsang. ²
- 10 August. At 1145, a train with 8 boxcars and an u/i number of flatcars was loaded with 40 tanks with 5 large driving-wheels, 7 trucks with equipment, 4 radio trucks and an u/i number of soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. ²
- 11 August. At 2300, a shipment of 18-20 new, completely canvas-covered tanks came from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeded toward Neuruppin. ³
- 12 August. At 1000, a unit including 16 x T-34s or T-54s, 4 JS-I tanks, 4 armored personnel carriers, 10 trucks, 2 radio trucks and an undetermined number of soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were loaded onto an u/i number of flatcars and 8 boxcars at the Templin railroad station. The unit arrived at the Templin railroad station from the direction of Vogelsang. ²
2. The following military shipments were observed at the Templin railroad station between 30 July and 1 August 1955:
- 30 July. At 1600, 7 x T-34s and 25 soldiers were entrained. The unit arrived at the Templin railroad station from the direction of Roeddelin.
- 1 August. A shipment consisting of 43 cars carrying soldiers and equipment came from the direction of Eberswalde and proceeded toward Vogelsang.
- 1 August. 12 x T-34s, 1 SP-gun and 40 soldiers were entrained. ²
3. The practices in the Templin area lasted until 27 July. On 24 July, a training maneuver was observed in the Hammelspring - Storkow area. In a wooded area, an artillery emplacement with guns pointing in the direction of Templin was seen. In front of this emplacement, 80-mm mortars were seen in firing practices, which in turn were protected by machine gun and rifle-squad entrenchments in front of them. The trucks were parked far behind the emplacement. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed in the artillery emplacement. ⁴

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4. Between 22 July and 10 August, frequent firing practices of artillery, mortar and rocket launcher units were observed in the training area. The firing practices which could still be heard at a long distance was heavier than previously. The border of the training area between Annenwalde and Tangersdorf was guarded by Soviet personnel more than usually. The observations made during the period under review included:

Between 2030 on 22 July and 0600 on 23 July, heavy artillery firing practices of various calibers.

On 25 July. From 2130 to 2130, night flying practices of jet fighters.

On 3 August. Night flying practices of jet fighters while searchlights and light and heavy AAA guns were in operation. Particularly heavy AAA firing was heard at each approach flight.

On 6/7 August. During day and night artillery firing practices of various weapons and calibers were noticed. The firing practices were heavier than previously.

5. Between 22 July and 10 August, no changes were observed in the Kannenburg Camp. The camp apparently does not serve as a permanent post, but seems to be occupied by small units which are frequently relieved. 5

6. In early August, it was determined that the Kroechlendorf Beenz training area southwest Prenzlau had been fenced off at the Kroechlendorf - Beenz road. Two rows of tents stood along the road. An AAA emplacement with x 37-mm AAA guns was seen close to the road. 122-mm or 152-mm field howitzers, 120-mm mortars and T-34s were parked in the wooded area of the training site. [redacted]

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1. [redacted] Comment. It is possible that the 25th Tank Div. was supplied with the T-54s. 25X1

2. [redacted] Comment. It is possible that the tank loadings and tank shipments involve tank units of the 10th Gds Tank Div., the 25th Tank Div. and the 6th Mecz Div. 25X1

3. [redacted] Comment. The information tends to indicate that the T-54s were destined for the 12th Gds Tank Div. 25X1

4. [redacted] Comment. The exercise of major elements of the 25th Tank Div. stationed in the Templin area started on 20/21 July. [redacted] 25X1
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5. [redacted] Comment. It is believed that the firing practices were held by units of the 25th Tank Div., the 6th Gds Mecz Div., and possibly the 10th Gds Tank Div. 25X1

6. [redacted] Comment. For additional information on the Kroechlendorf - Beenz training site [redacted] 25X1

[redacted]. This information confirms a previous report that a unit of the 25th Tank Div. stationed in Prenzlau departed for Kroechlendorf for a 14-day exercise. 25X1

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